B.I.C.P. recommendations regarding strategies for cost production

602. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has submitted a report to Government in April, 1988 regarding strategies for cost production;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the BICP has also recommended for the reduction of the prices of raw materials for petro-chemical products;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices reports provide an analysis of costs and other aspects to facilitate decision-taking process in the Government. Details of these cannot be divulged until after a decision thereon has been taken.

Shortage of plastic

603. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the perennial scarcity of plastic raw material in India;

(b) what is the projected gap between the demand and supply of plastic material in the country in the next five year period; and

(c) what steps are being taken to cover the gap between the demand and supply of plastic?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Government is aware that the present domestic availability of plastic raw materils is not adopate to meet the indigenous demand in full and situation of shortages will continue for some years. The projected gaps between demand and domestic availability of plastic raw materials during the current financial year and as in 1994-95 are as follows:—

('000 tonnes)

Projected gap in demand and domestic availability:	
1988-89	340
1994-95	1085

(c) To facilitate coverage of the gap between demand and domestic availability, import of plastic raw materials is permitted on OGL.

By way of long term solution to the problem, additional capacities for the manufacture of plastic raw materials are being established in the country. In the Maharashtra Gas Cracker Complex under implementation by IPCL which is slated for mechanical completion in 1989, following major polymers will be produced:—

('000 tonnes)

LDPE	80
HDPE/LLDPE	135
PP	60
Total	275

Shortage of Petrochemicals

604. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petrochemicals, particularly those in the polymer range are in short supply;